

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**COMMON MINISTRY**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2016**

**Present:**

**Absent:**

Pastor	Bridget Flad		
Moderator	Lou Norsetter		
Vice Moderator	Todd Kane		
Treasurer	Jeff Carels		
Clerk	Gail Hohenstein		
Education	Helen Krueger		
Gifts & Memorials	Gary Hassel	Larry Rose	
Inreach	Heather Collins		
New Member	Steve Jones	Nancy Gibson	
Outreach	Cathy Putman		
Stewardship	David Thie		
Worship	Sandy Polarek		
Communications Coordinator		Shaun Shouldeen	
Talents & Gifts			
Guest(s)			

Moderato Lou Norsetter called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

**Joys and Concerns:** Joys and concerns were shared, followed by prayer.

**Open Forum:** None.

**Shared Reflection:** David shared a reflection.

**Recognition:** Lou and the rest of Common Ministry thanked those who will be leaving CM this year: Todd Kane, Helen Krueger, Nancy Gibson, and Larry Rose.

**Visioning Team:** Shana Espinoza passed around a revised mission statement.

*Union's purpose is to strive to do the will of God, and to make the Christ spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations. Our church celebrates God's love by...  
 creating a safe harbor for all,  
 serving each at their point of need, and  
 promoting personal and societal transformation.*

She explained how the draft reflects the suggestions and feedback from the approximately 80 members of the Congregation who participated. The Team has scheduled a consultation session with John Wimberley to establish the process for developing goals and strategies, which will also have a small group feedback component. Gail moved that we accept the vision statement as read. After Heather's second, the motion was approved with thanks to the entire Visioning Team.

**Senior Minister's Report:** Bridget expressed thanks to everyone for making Christmas a truly delightful experience, and with gratitude for everyone who decorated, sang, pitched in to make it a blessed season. The youth ministry coordinator is no longer with us, and Bridget is working with the Wednesday night leaders and others to determine the best way to accomplish the responsibilities of that position. She and the Education Ministry have determined that Mayflower will be using the Nursery rather than the 2<sup>nd</sup> classroom in 2016, and has been working on applicable revisions to the Mayflower lease. Bridget continues to work on issues relative to the Waitzmann Condominium project, to continue its mission of quality barrier-free housing. She mentioned three upcoming events in which she will be participating: Joshua Solidarity, St. Norbert's Winter Women's Weekend and Martin Luther King Jr. Day events.

### **Clerk's Report**

Minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2015 were approved. Sandy/Todd. Approved.

Correspondence: Thank you note from Winnie.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jeff distributed the regular report. Pledge income was approximately \$380,000 (5% below budget), offset somewhat by increased non-pledge income (30% above budget). Expenses were all below budget, although much of the savings were from having no Associate pastor. Utilities were about \$10,000 lower than last year, and snow removal expenses were below budget. Total expenses were about \$44,000 less than budgeted. The year ended with a net surplus of \$8,900 vs. a budgeted deficit of \$26,000. Jeff's report was approved. (Todd/Heather)

### **New Business**

- Budget Proposal: Jeff distributed a proposed budget for 2016. It provides for six months of the Children's Coordinator, Youth Ministry Coordinator and 12 months Pastor of Visitation, all part time positions, and 6 months Part-Time Associate Pastor. If the budget is approved, Bridget will work with a group of people to determine what the Associate Pastor job description should be and she will work with Conference office to identify candidates. Bridget and Jeff are recommending that there be no Second Mile Campaign this year, as Bridget's review of pledges revealed that very many households had already pledged an increase in their pledges, and it didn't seem right to ask people to stretch further. David, on behalf of Stewardship, moved that we approve presentation of the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting. Approved.
- Annual Meeting Prep: Heather passed around a sign-up list for the Ministries' participation at the Annual Meeting luncheon. Inreach will provide ham and rolls. Lou and Bridget will prepare the agenda.

### **Ministry Updates (if not included in minutes)**

#### NEW MEMBER

No additions.

#### GIFTS & MEMORIALS

No additions.

#### OUTREACH

No additions.

#### EDUCATION

No additions.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Most of the Capital Campaign projects are completed and paid. Repayment of the loan from Gifts & Memorials will begin soon.

#### INREACH

No additions.

#### WORSHIP

Is there a way to better mark the edges of the chancel steps? Stewardship is looking into this.

**Communications:** No Report. Shawn and Bridget and several other folks are meeting tomorrow.

**Talents and Gifts:** No Report.

### **Treat/Shared Reflection Signup**

#### **Adjournment**

After prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Gail Hohenstein, Clerk*

Next meeting: February 9, 2016 – Chapel Classroom – 6:30 p.m.

Snacks: Gail Hohenstein

Shared Reflection: Cathy Putman